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Talking Points for the ADDI  
Appearance Before HPSCI  
Developments in the Iran-Iraq War  
23 September 1986

Iranian  
Offensive  
any  
time.

Iranian preparations suggest that an Iranian offensive could be launched at any time.  
Both Iran and Iraq have also stepped up attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf, and Iraq is becoming more aggressive in its airstrikes against Iranian economic facilities.

- The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Minister met with Ayatollah Khomeini last week to press for an offensive. According to a generally reliable source, Khomeini directed that two operations begin as soon as possible. Khomeini
- Iran has mobilized a large number of volunteers and is continuing to mass troops and equipment along several areas of the border.
- Iranian Army commanders have been holding final planning meetings at the southern and central fronts.

Iranian forces during the past two weeks have been conducting small attacks and maneuvering into better positions from which to launch larger attacks.

attacks  
last 2  
wks:

- Revolutionary Guard units on 12 September staged an unsuccessful attack against Iraqi positions in the Majnoon Island area. Majnoon
- Iranian Army troops launched a series of successful small assaults on Iraqi positions north of Mehran last week. The Army appears to be making preparations for more fighting in the area. no. of Mehran

Operations carried out by the Army along the central front--probably between Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran--may serve as diversions for larger attacks led by the Revolutionary Guard in the south.

- Usually the Army does not conduct major offensives on its own but assists the Revolutionary Guard. feint?
- The Army's apparent success at Mehran, however, may encourage the Iranians to press the attack along that front.

Attacks along the central front, even if they are diversions for operations in the south, probably will be aimed at gaining another foothold in Iraqi territory. The Iranians may, for example, try to seize Mandali, less than 100 miles from Baghdad, believing success in such an effort would cause serious difficulties for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

seize  
Mandali?  
?

Baghdad's recent success in using its air force to strike Iranian economic facilities probably will strengthen Tehran's determination to launch an offensive before its economic problems worsen further.

- Iraq attacked Khark Island on 16 September. This attack, combined with damage inflicted last month, makes the T-jetty--the principal outlet for Iranian Iraqi Khark

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Oil Facilities Damage AssessmentIran-Iraq: New Damage at Khark Island

(Based on information available as of  
12:00 EDT 17 September 1986)

[redacted] Iraqi aircraft conducted strikes on key Iranian oil facilities at Khark Island on 16 September [redacted] major damage to the T-jetty export terminal on the eastern side of the island, further reducing capacity at Khark to no more than 2 million barrels per day (b/d). About ten hours after the airstrikes, a Kuwaiti oil tanker was attacked--probably by an Iranian vessel according to the US Consulate in Dhahran. [redacted]

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Iranian exports last month were reduced to 1.3 million b/d from a high of 1.8 million b/d early in the year, due to Iraqi attacks at Khark, attacks at Tehran's transshipment facility at Sirri Island, movement of this facility to Larak Island and bad weather. All but 200,000 b/d--lifted at Lavan Island--of these exports have been shuttled from Khark. [redacted]

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Precise hits yesterday completely severed the northern section of the T-jetty from the main section, leaving a gap of nearly 20 meters of open water and twisted pipe between berths 7 and 1. Unlike previous attacks, this one caused major structural damage. Coupled with earlier damage--the southern section of the T-jetty was put out of commission by Iraqi attacks in early August--we believe the new damage will prevent the T-jetty from being used for an indefinite period. [redacted]

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Prior to yesterday's strikes, recurring attacks at Khark over the last year had reduced its capacity to about 3 million b/d from a pre-war level of about 9 million b/d. Crude oil lifting at Khark is now restricted to the undamaged berths of the Sea Island on the western side of Khark, capable of loading about 2 million b/d. [redacted]

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Khark 9 m. b/d pre-war  
2 m. b/d now

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Single point moorings 2 m. b/d at Ganaveh

Lavan Island 200,000 b/d

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[REDACTED]

We believe installation of the single point moorings (SPMs)--floating loading terminals--off the coast of Ganaveh has been completed and these may now be operational, although no tanker loadings are confirmed. If operational, the capacity of this facility is estimated at about 2 million b/d and, coupled with Khark's export capability, would permit Iranian exports at a rate of at least 3 million b/d. We estimate exports will be delayed only a few days after which loadings will resume at the Sea Island and may begin at the SPMs. [REDACTED]

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#### Market Reaction

Because the delays to Iranian exports are expected to be short lived, we expect the market reaction will be limited. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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